UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/38
10 August 1993

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 5 (a)

ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

MEASURES TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AND THE ROLE OF THE SUB-COMMISSION

Letter dated 4 August 1993 from the Chairman of the forty-fifth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities addressed to the President of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and the Secretary-General of the United Nations

In connection with the ongoing talks on the future of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the members of the United Nations Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities have today decided to authorize me to make the attached statement on their behalf. They have also asked me to communicate the contents of the message to you on an urgent basis.

(Signed) Awn Al-Khasawneh

GE.93-14537 (E)

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling the repeated reaffirmations by the Security Council that any taking of territory by force or any practice of "ethnic cleansing" is unlawful and unacceptable and will not be permitted to affect the outcome of the negotiations on constitutional arrangements for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and its insistence that all displaced persons be enabled to return in peace to their homes,

Deeply disturbed by the fact that the draft constitutional agreement for what is there referred to as the "Union of Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina" constitutes a de facto partition of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina on ethnic and religious grounds,

Appeals to the international community to:

(a) Reject any partition which results from aggression, intervention and massive violation of human rights, in particular the abhorrent practice of "ethnic cleansing" that has developed into "religious cleansing";

(b) Deny the validity of any agreement sought to be obtained under extreme duress from the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina for purposes other than a cessation of hostilities paving the way for a subsequent achievement of a peaceful settlement based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.